



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO NEAR THE WATER

BE COASTSMART:

Tips for Safely Enjoying Vancouver Island's West Coast

The west coast is beautiful and wild all at once. Powerful waves, dense rainforest, and miles of sandy beaches are sure to fill you with a sense of awe.

We want your experience to be enjoyable and safe. That means being aware of the natural hazards that are part of this magnificent and rugged landscape. Even when you are such a short drive away from your cozy room or an unforgettable meal, it is important to remember that none of the local amenities have tamed nature's powerful force. Please, Be CoastSmart and know BEFORE you go!



...NEAR THE WATER

PLAN YOUR TIME

Don't get trapped by the tide or changing weather conditions. Consult a tide table and weather forecast.

BE PREPARED

Know where you are, take a phone, tell a friend, and bring the essentials.

WATCH YOUR BACK

Large waves can reach above the tide line, flooding beaches, small islands, and rocky headlands.

STAY ON THE TRAIL

Trails are safe places for storm watching. Rocks and logs can be very slippery.

KEEP CHILDREN CLOSE

Stay within arm's reach of children at all times when near the water.



...IN THE WATER

SUITABLE EQUIPMENT

The Pacific Ocean is cold; wear a wetsuit and use other equipment specific to your chosen activity, season, and location.



SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE

Know where rip currents frequently occur locally, how to avoid them, and how to escape one if caught.



NECESSARY EXPERIENCE

Be trained and experienced, stay within your limits and always start with a lesson or guided tour.



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

www.CoastSmart.ca

Download the App

Download the CoastSmart App for your mobile device for tides, weather, beach information and much more.

Check signage

Check CoastSmart signage at all beach accesses and trails and the LED signs in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.


20%
OF PEOPLE
WHO DROWN
NEVER INTENDED
TO GET WET

Ask local businesses

Local businesses such as surf shops, restaurants and accommodation providers have good local knowledge. They live here!

Take a lesson

Hire a guide. If you are new to the area, local shops provide an excellent introduction to surf sports via a lesson or guided tour and staff are knowledgeable about the local hazards. Stop by and have a conversation!